



The Minuteman



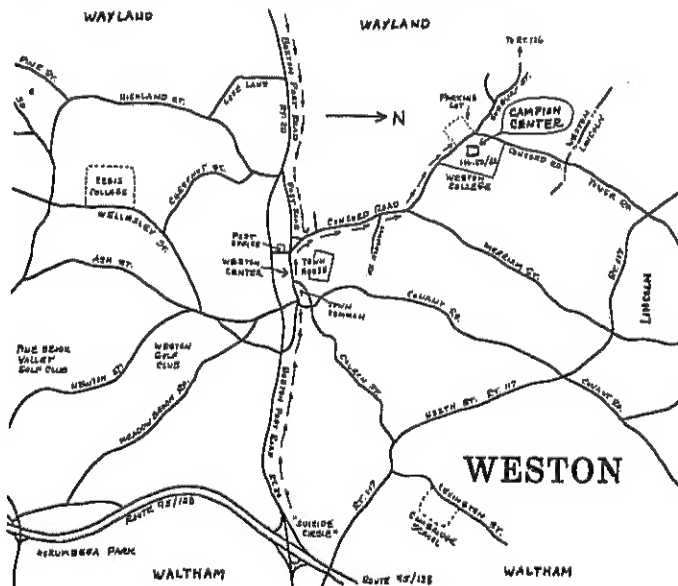
Volume 13 Number 1

The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the
MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

September 1984

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE	September 17, 1984
PLACE	Campion Center, Weston
TIME	7:30 PM, doors open at 7 PM for socializing
SPEAKER	Sergio Marino, KG1C of Needham "Operation and Linking of Repeaters"
RAFFLE	Raffle prizes will be drawn, come early, spend money
REFRESHMENTS	Free coffee and donuts



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to all MMRA members and readers and welcome to the 1984-1985 season!! Although we are in the second quarter of our fiscal year, amateur activity seems to really come alive in the Fall.

This year we have a convention in Boxborough as a high point in activity and, for the first time in our area, the V.E.C. sponsored license exams will be held.

September is also a significant month for the MMRA; this is the first year that all dues become payable during this month. The reason was to enable more precise record keeping and to render better service to the members.

I was very concerned about our treasury balance and the ability to run all our repeaters during the summer months, but I am happy to report that the new program is a resounding success.

My heart-felt thanks to the Board members who keep on plugging away even during summer vacation months and to you the members.

You may ask why the members, what did we do? I am glad you asked the question.

You have shown your devotion to the organization by attracting new members; this can only be accomplished when there is a general feeling of pride in the organization and this new blood helps each and every one of us.

Our membership role at the Directors' meeting on September 5, 1984 was 520 members, which I believe is a new high.

We formalized a new budget at the Directors' meeting which we shall present at the membership meeting on September 17 at Campion Center.

In formulating the budget, one fact became very apparent. By giving the membership 6 repeaters to use, our budget becomes very tight if we are to retain the same dues structure of \$20.00 for individual membership.

Last year we put a new repeater on the air and outfitted the 450 machine with a new microprocessor built by MMRA members with an autopatch connected to Bay State Service.

In addition, we purchased equipment to give 22/82 the Weston machine a link to a high site in Arlington and a new transmitter and receiver. The results of this will be apparent this Fall.

It would be enough to provide you with 6 repeaters all performing well with autopatch on 4 repeaters, but we are not going to rest on any past achievements. In keeping with our program of emphasizing improvements on one repeater each year, our goal this year is to provide 146.115/715 in Stoneham with a microprocessor and autopatch.

Some of the reasons are as follows:

- 1) Bill Sencabaugh, KIUAQ, Trustee of the machine is a highly qualified professional who, with the help of his tech crew, has maintained this repeater with outstanding reliability at the lowest cost of any repeater in the organization and is willing to undertake this new technical task.
- 2) Many members may not be aware of the outstanding coverage of this repeater with particular emphasis to the north and into southern New Hampshire.
- 3) We have found that the introduction of an autopatch to a machine attracts more than enough new members to pay for the additional expense.
- 4) You can then drive to the north, south, east and west and be covered by autopatch. On MMRA repeaters we have found little abuse within the MMRA of autopatch usage and most of us feel secure in knowing its availability.

We know that we can continue to give you these fine services and maintain the repeaters for the current term at the present dues structure.

Only your cooperation can insure our mutual success. To enable the system to function we need the income generated by dues. Dues are the lifeline of the MMRA and any other sources of income are negligible.

Please insure our continuity and continued growth by promptly submitting your dues in September.

A few announcements before closing.

Our 450 machine on 449.50 will be moving to 449.925 on or about October 1, 1984 because of interference from a telephone company repeater.

There are presently two open repeaters on Mount Wachusett sponsored by RACES which all are invited to use.

These are 448.575 MHZ and 1291.01 MHZ, the latter being a new installation and the only repeater in New England on 1.2 GHZ. They have emergency power; autopatch usage is limited to emergencies that are RACES related - per Roger, W1OJ.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

de KA1AL

EDITOR'S CORNER

It's that time again! When the grass stops growing and to ham conventions we will be going. I hope everyone had a great summer. For me, it was one of transition. I recently moved to a new Qth and have been busy unpacking cartons and setting up the new ham shack. As some of you may know, the house that we bought was owned by a ham who just happened to have a 48-foot Rohn tower and tri-bander and who just hated the idea of taking it all down. Whoopie! Of course this had no bearing on the decision to buy! Isn't that right, Rudy?

Seriously, I hope to see each of you at the September 17th meeting in Weston. And don't forget the New England ARRL convention in Boxboro, September 29th and 30th.

This year an effort will be made to get the newsletter published well in advance of meeting dates. In order to accomplish this, I am setting up cutoff dates for each of the four remaining newsletters. The dates are as follows:

November 1, 1984 (November newsletter)
January 1, 1985 (January newsletter)
March 1, 1985 (March newsletter)
May 1, 1985 (May newsletter)

If you have any written articles or have an idea that you would like to share with fellow members drop me a line. My new address is:

76 Oak Hill Road
Westford, MA 01886

Now let's see, I wonder what is in this carton?

KB1DY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Period: August 1, 1984 to August 31, 1984

EXPENSES		INCOME	
01-61	\$ 23.33	Dues	\$278.85
07-67	52.03		
115-715	26.86		
22-82	51.67		
450-Marlboro	28.60		
Treasurer	8.00		
Meetings	125.00		
Total Expenses	\$315.49		

YEAR TO DATE

Period: May 21, 1984 to August 31, 1984

EXPENSES		INCOME	
01-61	\$ 239.47	Dues	\$ 500.51
07-67	454.63		
115-715	76.03	Balance brought	
22-82	390.11	forward 5/21/84	\$2,143.81
220-Quincy	11.66	Total Income	500.51
450-Marlboro	28.60		2,644.32
Treasurer	8.00	Total Expenses	1,427.05
Newsletter	18.00	Balance 8/31/84	\$1,217.27
Meetings	190.22		
Education	10.33		
Total Expenses	\$1,427.05		

KB1DY

1984-85 MEETING DATES

MONDAY - SEPT. 17 - WESTON
TUESDAY - NOV. 13 -
WEDNESDAY - JAN. 16 -
MONDAY - MAR. 18 -
TUESDAY - MAY 21 -

The 223.94 repeater is operational at Marlboro. This is an MMRA host machine owned by Gary, WA1QMI for use by MMRA members at no cost to the MMRA. Try it, you'll like it.

MMRA PROPOSED BUDGET

For the period May 21, 1984 through May 20, 1985

Treasury Balance on May 21, 1984 - \$2,143.81

OPERATING EXPENSES		INCOME	
01/61	\$ 500.00	Dues	\$10,000.00
07/67	500.00	Advertising	100.00
115/715	500.00	Raffle	900.00
22/82	500.00	Total Income	\$11,000.00
22/82 Rent	400.00		
220 Quincy	200.00		
440 Marlboro	500.00		
President	75.00		
Secretary	300.00		
Treasurer	60.00		
Meetings	1,700.00		
Education	300.00		
Insurance	200.00		
Miscellaneous	50.00		
Newsletter	1,700.00		
Total	7,485.00		

Capital and Special Expenses:

115/715 Phone	
Patch	\$1,500.00
Total allocation	
to repair of all	
repeaters	1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$9,985.00

NEW ENGLAND'S BIGGEST HAM RADIO FLEA MARKET

The HOSS TRADERS will hold their SECOND ANNUAL FALL SWAPFEST On Saturday 6 October 1984 at the Deerfield Fairgrounds in Deerfield, NH. ***RAIN OR SHINE*** Friday night camping opens at 4:00 PM Friday, and the fees will be collected by the Fair Grounds Association. Admission two dollars, tail gating included. Good food available. All profits benefit the Boston Burns unit of the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Talkin on .52 direct or 146.40/147.00. Questions can be answered by sending an S.A.S.E. to Joe Demaso K1RQG, Star route Box 56 Bucksport, ME or Norm Blake RFD Box 57, West Baldwin, ME 04091, or Bob Tiffany W1GWU 105 Walton Road, Seabrook, NH 03874. For the two events held last year the Shriners collected about \$5000 for the hospital.

COMING EVENTS

September 29 and 30, Saturday and Sunday - The New England ARRL Convention Flea Market will be held at the Sheraton Boxboro Hotel Route 495 and Route 111, Boxboro, Mass. There will be a giant 40' by 80' tent plus the Entire hot-topped lot. Setup outdoors for \$15 the first day (includes mandatory convention reg) and \$9 for the second day when purchased at the same time. Under the tent \$20 for the first day (includes mandatory convention reg) and \$13 for the second day when purchased at the same time. Make checks payable to F.E.M.A.R.A., 28 Forest Street, Swampscott, MA 01907. Include an SASE. Phone for info (617)593-7700 days or (617)631-7388 evenings.

October 20, Saturday - The Middlesex Amateur Radio Club will hold a Ham Radio Flea Market and Foliage Extravaganza at the town hall in Dover, Mass. Doors open at 9:30 AM for buyers and 8:30 AM for sellers, the event runs until 3:30 PM. Ref. avail. Early Bird tables \$8 each admission is \$1 per person. Talk-in on 147.96/36. For info contact Irv. Geller KO1N at (617)875-3653 or write to 1450 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA 01701.

440 Mhz, THE FIRST YEAR

To call the MMRA venture into the UHF region a success would be an understatement!

Starting with an old "four pole" antenna at forty feet, an old Motorola U-44 tube type receiver, and a VHF Engineering UHF "kit" transmitter in June 1981, the present equipment of today can only be looked upon as "STUPENDOUS!"

The first improvement came in early October 1982 with the purchase of a "state of the art" Spectrum Communications solid state receiver to replace the old Motorola. This receiver was used at the 1982 Boxboro ARRL Convention as the on-site 440 MHZ show repeater.

The next tremendous improvement came by truck to the residence of K1ST. The delivery was our new 10 db gain Stationmaster antenna. All this equipment was, without a doubt, the best available at the time, but would not offer "Super UHF Repeater" status if located at the .01/.61 two meter site so a search for a new "super site" was launched. In early November 1982, all of the 440 MHZ equipment was moved to the present site at Sligo Hill in Marlboro to the old black water tower. The Stationmaster was mounted on the tower, 150 ft above ground and 750 ft above sea-level. This antenna height plus excellent equipment gave the MMRA super coverage. In late November 1982, a 100 watt amplifier and 25 amp power supply were added which gave 449,500 coverage from New Hampshire to Rhode Island and Connecticut and from Sturbridge East to Boston.

This evolution is a natural path for a serious repeater organization to follow. The MMRA, however, did not stop here. With good coverage, a few dozen users, and many members obtaining new 440 MHZ rigs all the time, it became evident that we should give the users of the new repeater a little bit more to help increase membership and add an incentive to attract new users to the machine.

In May 1983, a microprocessor controller was added. This addition made the 449,500 MHZ repeater the showplace of the band. The 449,500 MHZ and .01/.61 two meter repeaters now share the same bells and whistles; time check, Touch Tone pad tester, and extended tail for receiver adjustment. These are all features found on the K1BC controllers for the Two Marlboro repeaters and the Weston two meter repeater.

On September 15, 1983, a bigger magnet was added to the 440 MHZ repeater. The autopatch. At first, only local calls could be made but in December, software changes made it possible to make Bay State calls from this repeater between 12:00 PM and 9:00 AM weekdays and any time on weekends.

In April 1984, it became evident that the old VHF Engineering transmitter was nearing the end of its useful life. By May, a new Maggiore Labs transmitter had been installed and that is how the 449,500 MHZ repeater sits today, all solid state over 100 watts out, with autopatch and microprocessor controller.

This Machine has to be one of the best, if not the best repeater on 440 MHZ or any band in Massachusetts. It belongs to you, the MMRA. Only by using these machines and encouraging new members can we continue to maintain the best repeaters in New England.

de WB1FAE

NEW THIRD PARTY COUNTRY LIST ISSUED

The FCC has issued a new list of nations that the United States may exchange third party communications with since there have been some recent changes. The list now reads:

Antigua and	Barbuda	Argentina
Australia	Belize	Bolivia
Brazil	Canada	Chile
Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba
Dominica	Dominican Republic	Ecuador
El Salvador	The Gambia	Ghana
Grenada	Guatemala	Guyana
Haiti	Honduras	Israel
Jamaica	Jordan	Liberia
Mexico	Nicaragua	Panama
Paraguay	Peru	St. Lucia
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		Swaziland
Trinidad &	Tobago	Uruguay
Venezuela	4U1ITU/Geneva,	Switzerland

HERE AND THERE

Effective September 1st, new HF phone spectrum will be available to the radio amateur in the 80, 15 and 10 meter bands! Hawaiian and Alaskan amateurs are also being allowed expanded 40 meter telephony privileges due to their close proximity to ITU Region 3.

80 meters	New Subband	Present Band	(+)
Extra	3750-4000	3775-4000	+25
Advanced	3775-4000	3800-4000	+25
General	3850-4000	3890-4000	+40
15 meters			
Extra	21.200-21.450	21.250-21.450	+50
Advanced	21.225-21.450	21.270-21.450	+45
General	21.300-21.450	21.350-21.450	+50
10 meters			
All	28.300-29.700	28.500-29.700	+200
	(General, Advanced, Extra)		

Writing off a new personal computer may be tougher than you think. Under the new 1984 Tax Act, more than half of your computer time must be for business purposes to qualify for deductions. If you purchased your computer before June 19, 1984, however, deductions can be taken based on any proportion of business use. Business Week, (July 23).

PUBLIC SERVICE

It's been a busy year for public service

We worked various road races, some rowing events on the Charles, an all-day series of bike races in Quincy, a couple of major parades, the Charles River Watershed Association's 40-mile canoe race, the Bay State Games, and probably a job or two that didn't find its way into my calendar book. Quite a few MMRA members worked on jobs organized by other clubs, like the Marathon. Along the way we had some interesting experiences, tried out unusual ways of setting up communication, and spent some time out in the middle of the New England scenery. Several of the gang got a chance to get the experience of coordinating a job.

We also made some good friends for ham radio. The letter below is just a sample of the thanks we've received from the people we've helped out. Quite a few people, especially in municipal government, take hams pretty seriously these days.

If you haven't worked one of these jobs lately, why not pitch in next time? We meet every Tuesday at 1930 on 146.82 for planning purposes.

de AB1Z

COMING UP

- Sept. 21-23 Marlborough Classic Golf Tournament. A world-wide event. Coordinators: K1ZFH, N1BRM. Safety communication. Concord, Mass.
- Oct. 21 Head of the Charles Regatta. World's largest crew rowing meet. Coordinator: N1CTY. Safety, timing, general support communication. Cambridge to Newton.

Dear John,

Many thanks to you and all those who assisted in supporting the operations of our "Floating Mile and 5" road race. Clearly, having all the hams there insured the ability to communicate the safety of our runners,

I especially thank you for your constructive comments regarding next years race. And, I look forward to working with you again.

Thanks again,

Mary Mahony

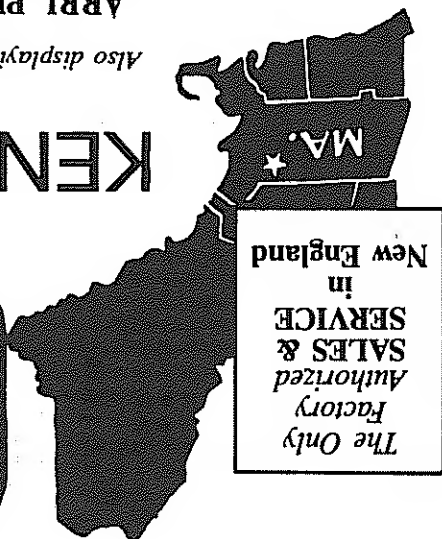
Mary Mahony
Co-Director
The Floating Mile and 5

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 1 1/2 miles from Rte. 495 (Exit 31) toward Groton, Mass.

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